

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LETTER TO MICRONESIAN LEADERS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOR STATUS LNO FROM AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING LETTER TO ADDRESSEES INDICATED:

"HONORABLE TOSIWO NAKAYAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

HONORABLE BETHWEL HENRY, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK, VICE-SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

GENTLEMEN:

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO SOME OF PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA'S
QUESTIONS POSED IN HIS REMARKS TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 29,
1976 AND TO SENATOR SALII'S LETTER OF JANUARY 26, 1976.

BOTH HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE U.S. ON VARIOUS
POLITICAL STATUS RELATED MATTERS AND HAVE ASKED IN PARTICULAR
ABOUT THE REACTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE MICRONE-

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SIAN DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH WAS SIGNED LAST NOVEMBER.

WITH RESPECT TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY AGAIN HOW MUCH I ADMIRERD THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CONCON WAS CONDUCTED AND THE SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION AND COMPROMISE WHICH RESULTED IN THE SIGNING OF SUCH A HISTORIC DOCUMENT. YOU MAY RECALL THAT THE U.S. HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD TO THE VIEW THAT AGREEMENT AS TO YOUR FUTURE INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE NATURE OF YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO PRECEDE ANY FINAL SETTLEMENT OF YOUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

YOU HAVE MADE IMPORTANT PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION AND IT WOULD SEEM TO US NOW THAT THE NEXT MAJOR STEP IN YOUR FURTHER PROGRESSION TOWARD DETERMINATION OF YOUR FUTURE INTERNAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE THE HOLDING OF THE REFERENDUM ON A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION SIMULTANEOUSLY IN PALAU, YAP, TRUK, PONAPE, AND THE MARSHALLS. THE U.S. THROUGH THE TT GOVERNMENT WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH YOU IN THE HOLDING OF SUCH A REFERENDUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PL 5-60.

THE REFERENDUM ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY AN EXTENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH A CLEAR EXPLANATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AS THEY RELATE TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS WELL AS HOW THE CONSTITUTION WILL AFFECT MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND ITS FUTURE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

IN THIS REGARD I HAVE REVIEWED THE CROSS-ANALYSIS OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION PREPARED FOR THE JCFS. REGRETFULLY, THE U.S. CANNOT AGREE WITH CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE BASIC COMPATIBILITY OF THE TWO DRAFT DOCUMENTS. THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION PER SE IS NOT THE ISSUE. ITS COMPATIBILITY WITH THE PREVIOUSLY AGREED CONCEPTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AS SET FORTH IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ANY ALTERNATIVE STATUS ARRANGEMENTS CONSTITUTE THE CENTRAL QUESTION. IN THIS REGARD THE U.S. HAS CONCLUDED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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FREE ASSOCIATION AS ENVISAGED BY THE COMPACT IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE SOVEREIGN INDEPENDENT STATUS CALLED FOR BY THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. WE HAVE FURTHER CONCLUDED THAT MERE REVISION OF THE COMPACT WILL NOT ALTER THIS BASIC FACT.

I WOULD SUGGEST THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THIS AND RELATED MATTERS MIGHT SERVE TO EXPLAIN THE

REASONS THE U.S. HAS COME TO THE ABOVE CONCLUSIONS AND TO PROVIDE YOU WITH OUR DETAILED COMMENTS ON YOUR CROSS-

ANALYSIS. AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. WOULD BE PLEASED TO LISTEN TO YOUR VIEWS AS TO THE NATURE OF THE NEW FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WHICH YOU WOULD NOW PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH WITH THE U.S. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF YOUR DRAFT CONSTITUTION. WE WOULD SEE THIS KIND OF INFORMAL EXPLORATION AND EXCHANGE AS BEING MOST USEFUL AS BACKGROUND FOR THE RESUMPTION OF FORMAL TALKS WITH THE NEW MICRONESIAN COMMISSION ON FUTURE STATUS AND TRANSITION AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME IN THE FUTURE.

YOU HAVE ASKED WHAT IS THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY POSITION ON UNITY. THE POSITION OF THE U.S. HAS NOT CHANGED. IT CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT OUT OF THE PROCESS OF WRITING AND RATIFYING A CONSTITUTION FOR MICRONESIA WILL COME UNITY. THE PEOPLE OF THE TTPI ENDORSED THIS OBJECTIVE IN PRINCIPLE BY ELECTING DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONCON AND NOTHING SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE TO EVENTUALLY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE A FEDERAL CONSTITUTION IN A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY THROUGHOUT THE CAROLINES AND THE MARSHALLS. THIS IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES.

WITH RESPECT TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, I BELIEVE THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS WISE IN LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FEW REMAINING YEARS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE AND THE TIME WILL GO BY QUICKLY. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO LOOK TO THE YEAR 1981 AS THE TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AND ITS BUDGET PLANNING HAS TAKEN THIS DATE INTO CONSIDERATION. THE REMAINING YEARS

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SHOULD ALLOW FOR CAREFUL PLANNING FOR A SMOOTH AND ORDERLY TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. IN THIS REGARD I DO COMMEND YOUR FORESIGHT IN PROVIDING FOR A NEW CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION WHICH WILL HAVE BROAD RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TRANSITION PLANNING AS WELL AS FOR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS MATTERS.

A YEAR AGO AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, I PROPOSED A MEETING FOR AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS RELATED TO YOUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND TO THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT. COMPETING PRIORITIES PRECLUDED YOUR BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING LAST YEAR. I HOPE THAT THIS YEAR, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS

THE ABOVE MENTIONED MATTERS CAN BE ARRANGED AT A MUTUALLY
CONVENIENT TIME.

IN THE MEANWHILE, I SEND EACH OF YOU MY WARMEST BEST WISHES.
SINCERELY YOURS, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS.
KISSINGER

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